



SEE Action

STATE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION NETWORK

Purpose and Goal

The goal is to help the nation achieve all cost-effective energy efficiency by 2020 through assisting state and local governments in their implementation of energy efficiency policies and programs.

Energy efficiency is the largest, cheapest and most readily available energy resource available to the nation today. Energy efficiency provides important energy, environmental and economic benefits. There are a number of well documented barriers preventing capture of these benefits including policy and regulatory, customer, market and program barriers. State Energy Efficiency Action Network (SEE Action) is a federal-state-local effort to build upon the progress of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency and assists state and local governments in:

- Advancing energy efficiency policies and programs
- Removing barriers and disincentives to realizing energy savings through efficiency
- Growing state-level investments in cost-effective energy efficiency

SEE Action looks for opportunities to catalyze and transform the market and foster the emergence of a sustainable energy efficiency industry.

Structure of SEE Action

SEE Action is advanced through an Executive Group and eight policy and program Working Groups.

Executive Group: The Executive Group provides the leadership, strategic direction, prioritization, and drive to ensure that SEE Action achieves the goal. It consists of approximately 30 members, representing diverse stakeholders, including state policy makers, local governments, third-party energy efficiency program administrators, industrial users, commercial building owners, energy service companies, utilities, non-governmental organizations, and others. It is facilitated and co-chaired by EPA and DOE. A key role is the formation of Working Groups to address energy efficiency program and policy issues critical to taking energy efficiency to scale.

Working Groups: Eight Working Groups are underway for the first year of SEE Action, as determined by the Executive Group and shown to the right. Each Working Group will develop a Blueprint for achieving particular near- and long-term aggressive goals which are critical to capturing all cost-effective energy efficiency. The groups will then use the Blueprint to guide a suite of implementation efforts so the many stakeholders engaged in efficiency can work

together, given their roles and responsibilities to achieving the goals. Implementation will focus on filling gaps among existing activities, and targeting activities and deliverables which will assist state and local governments in taking efficiency to scale.

SEE Action Working Groups



Coordination and Technical Assistance

SEE Action will also facilitate coordination across DOE and EPA funded efforts including ongoing technical assistance and innovative projects funded through the Recovery Act and other funding sources.

Ongoing Technical Assistance: DOE and EPA will continue to provide direct, state-specific technical assistance on particular policy and program issues at state policy makers' request in support of SEE Action, for both ratepayer and non-ratepayer funded efficiency. Current assistance includes:

- DOE Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Technical Assistance Program provides state, local, and tribal officials the tools, resources and assistance needed to implement successful and sustainable clean energy programs. This program provides direct, short-term assistance with cross-cutting energy efficiency & renewable energy issues.
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/technical_assistance.html
- DOE Office of Electricity's Technical Assistance is provided on an as-requested basis on any state or regional electricity policy topic, including ratepayer-funded energy efficiency, to a broad range of stakeholders.
http://www.oe.energy.gov/state_assist.htm
- EPA's State Climate and Energy Program helps states develop policies and programs that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, improve air quality and public health, and achieve economic development goals. EPA provides proven, cost-effective best practices, peer exchange opportunities, and analytical tools.
<http://epa.gov/statelocalclimate/state/index.html>

Technical Assistance Grants: Lessons learned from state and local government efforts in piloting new approaches to energy efficiency programs and policies through federally funded grants will inform SEE Action.

- Competitive State Energy Program Funding: DOE expects to fund up to 10 States for a total of up to \$30 million in efforts to strengthen the

building retrofit market, develop energy efficiency goals and to design policies and programs to achieve them.

- Climate Communities Showcase Grants: EPA is working with 21 local and tribal governments in establishing and implementing climate change initiatives, including the advancement of energy efficiency programs and policies. The 2010 Request for Proposals closes July 26, 2010.
- Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants – Retrofit Ramp-Up: DOE has awarded \$452 million in Recovery Act funds to 25 projects in localities and/or states to catalyze innovative building upgrades that will leverage an estimated \$2.8 billion from other sources, retrofit hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses over the next 3 years, and save \$100 million annually in utility bill costs for American homes and businesses.
- Smart Grid Investment Grants: DOE awarded \$3.4 billion in Recovery Act funds to 100 entities, matched by industry funding for a total public-private investment over \$8 billion. This funding is for smart grid technologies and infrastructure that will further provide customers with the tools and information to use energy more efficiently. In addition, DOE awarded \$620 million in Recovery Act funds leveraged with \$1 billion from the private sector for 16 projects to demonstrate advanced Smart Grid technologies and integrated systems.

Coordination and Outreach: Many stakeholders at the local, state and regional levels have key roles in implementing energy efficiency. Sharing and building on the Working Group Blueprints' key deliverables and messages through these organizations is important. SEE Action will be engaging many coordinating organizations around outreach and further increasing energy efficiency investment and savings.

For More Information

For more information on SEE Action, visit www.seeaction.energy.gov. For questions, contact Carla Frisch (carla.frisch@ee.doe.gov), Mike Li (michael.li@hq.doe.gov), Stacy Angel (angel.stacy@epa.gov)